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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/49/20, A/49/280, A/49/381)

AGENDA ITEM 147: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (continued) (A/49/141)

1. Mr. RIBEIRO (Brazil) said that on 10 February 1994 the Brazilian Congress had enacted legislation creating the Brazilian space agency. With that initiative, the coordination of Brazilian space activities had been transferred to the Ministry of Science and Technology, and that would reinforce the non-military character of Brazil's space programme. His Government, after careful consideration, had also announced that it would follow the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

2. In the framework of the Brazilian space programme, an SCD-1 satellite, the first of a series of data relaying devices, had been launched in early 1993. SCD-2 was scheduled to be launched in 1995 and resources had been approved for SCD-3. His Government was also undertaking the development of micro-satellites of the ECO-8 series which would be deployed in low equatorial orbits. Furthermore, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in the framework of the Guará project, 33 sounding and meteorological rockets had been launched from the launching base of Alcantara, situated in the northern part of Brazil.

3. The general debate provided a good opportunity to take stock of the work performed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its subcommittees. With regard to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, his delegation appreciated the tireless efforts undertaken by the Expert on Space Applications and the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs who, despite the meagre resources available, were carrying out the activities of the United Nations in that domain. In that respect, voluntary contributions, particularly from space Powers, were very important for the successful implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. His Government would continue to support that Programme through the offer of long-term scholarships.

4. Regional centres for science, technology and education were of great interest to his Government. Recent meetings between the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs and the delegations of Mexico and Brazil would no doubt contribute to settling a few outstanding legal issues associated with the establishment of a regional centre for Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. The issue of space debris had been introduced in the agenda of the Scientific and Technological Subcommittee for the first time. His delegation hoped that speedy progress in the consideration of that question would pave the way for introducing the matter in the Legal Subcommittee with a view to the progressive development of international space law.

6. His delegation believed that the debate on working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.1 had been constructive and positive, and that there were no fundamental differences among delegations that could not be reconciled through constructive debate. His delegation intended, in active consultation with the sponsors, to submit a revised version of the document to the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session.

7. At the most recent session of the Legal Subcommittee, delegations had agreed on the need to address the questions of the agenda and the duration of sessions simultaneously. In the view of his delegation, the method of work agreed upon in 1994, based on a flexible approach, should be followed.

8. His delegation welcomed the agreement reached on increasing the membership of COPUOS by not more than eight States. It was very important that the appointments should be made by consensus so as to enable the President of the General Assembly to appoint the new members without a vote. As to the question of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), his delegation associated itself with the decision taken at the meeting of COPUOS that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should carry out a thorough analysis and define a sharply focused agenda, and should also consider alternative means of reaching the same goals. Those recommendations were in line with his delegation's position that the success of such an important undertaking depended not only on the support provided by Member States, in particular the space Powers, but also on a well-conducted preparatory process.

9. Finally, his delegation supported the recommendation of COPUOS that no action was required from the General Assembly to revise the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, as provided for in article 18 of that Agreement.

10. Mr. REY (Colombia) said that his delegation wished to refer specifically to a number of items which were being considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Colombia had always supported the idea of including the question of space debris in the agenda of COPUOS, since that problem had serious consequences for the development of space technology. In that connection, it noted with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had already taken up the item. However, Colombia believed that the item should also be taken up by the Legal Subcommittee, since space debris gave rise not only to technical problems but also to problems regarding the formulation of the relevant legal norms. That work should be carried out only after studying the scientific and technical aspects of the problem.

11. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, his delegation supported the Principles adopted by the General Assembly in 1992 and felt that they should not be revised at the current stage since no changes had taken place which would give rise to the need for such revision.

12. Colombia's position on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space was well known. It had always been in favour of an early definition

of the boundary between airspace and outer space, and also of reaching consensus on the question of establishing the perigee of the orbit of artificial Earth satellites, which should be 100 kilometres. His delegation welcomed the document submitted by the Russian Federation setting out a new approach to the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space. It hoped that the working group of the Legal Subcommittee would continue its work on the problem and formulate the relevant criteria in an expeditious manner.

13. Colombia also supported all the efforts made in the Committee to bring about the full entry into force of the provisions of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, relating to the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind, taking into account the needs of developing countries. Furthermore, he noted the importance of the spin-off benefits of space technology for countries which did not have sufficient resources and possibilities for research and development in that area.

14. Colombia attached great importance to the question of the geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource. The legal basis governing activities in that field had practically not been elaborated. Provisions relating to it had, for the first time, been set forth in article 33 of the 1973 Malaga-Torremolinos treaty. Since then, the international community had been endeavouring to define the basic characteristics of the geostationary orbit and draw up rules governing equitable access to it. In 1993, Colombia had submitted a paper on this question (A/AC.105/C.2/L.192) to the Legal Subcommittee's working group. The main objective of the paper was to draw up the legal basis for equitable use of the geostationary orbit. In that connection, it should be stressed that article 33 of the Nairobi International Telecommunication Union Convention referred to the need to guarantee to all States equitable access to the orbit. Nevertheless, there was a need to distinguish between principles of equity and fairness, and the paper submitted by Colombia placed particular emphasis precisely on the principle of fairness, which, inter alia, provided for the establishment of a special preferential regime for the countries that still did not have access to the geostationary orbit. Implementation of that principle would make it possible to ensure much fairer allocation of positions in the orbit, with account taken of the other principles laid down in ITU agreements.

15. Colombia attached particular importance to a third United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. There was a need, however, to determine in advance its agenda items and tasks in order to ensure the successful holding of the conference. In view of the current state of technological development and the work carried out by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, discussion of the corresponding agenda items at the Conference should be at the highest level.

16. Lastly, Colombia welcomed the fact that agreement had been reached on the question of enlarging the membership of the Outer Space Committee. That would further enable various countries to participate in discussing such an extremely important issue as the use of outer space. Nevertheless, attention should be

drawn to the need not to set a precedent in that area which might run counter to provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Enlarging the membership of any given body was a matter to be dealt with by the General Assembly.

17. Mr. KONG (China) said that more and more countries, including developing ones, had been attaching increasing importance to the application of space technology. In the past year, the Outer Space Committee and its related bodies had, with the support of Governments concerned and international organizations, carried out international cooperation activities, including the holding of training courses, workshops and seminars. A great deal of technical consultancy services had been provided to States, particularly developing countries, thus contributing to the coordination of space activities and the success of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

18. China's outer space activities had continued to develop steadily in the past year. It had successfully launched a scientific experimental satellite, Practice 4, and international satellites, Asia-Pacific 1 and Oputus B3, for overseas customers. It also planned to launch the Dong Fang Hong 3 communications satellite.

19. China attached great importance to space technology and its application. At the present time, space technology had been extensively employed in fields such as machine-building, metallurgy, the chemical industry, energy, the production of materials, transport and medical treatment. His country also gave much attention to the application of advanced space technology for various purposes such as disaster monitoring and forecasting, imminent earthquake prediction, combating agricultural pests, as well as desertification monitoring.

20. From 14 to 18 September 1994, the Chinese Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency had held a workshop on microwave remote-sensing applications. From 19 to 24 September 1994, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had convened a ministerial meeting in Beijing on the application of space technology for development. The meeting had adopted three documents, including the Beijing Declaration on ESCAP space technology for environmentally sound and sustainable development, thereby promoting the exchange of information on the policies of States on the application of space technology, the coordination of relevant space application plans, and the enhancement of regional cooperation in that field.

21. In 1994, China was continuing the practice of awarding two one-year fellowships to trainees from developing countries in the fields of remote sensing, cartography and satellite geodesy. His delegation was pleased to note that more and more States hoped to participate in the Committee's work, which demonstrated the importance that States attached to the development of space technology and its application for peaceful purposes. Enlarging the Outer Space Committee's membership would further promote the development and application of space technology and extensive international cooperation. The Chinese delegation also supported the proposal to hold a third United Nations conference

on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in order to improve coordination of outer space activities and international cooperation.

22. Mr. DIMITROV (Bulgaria) said that at the current time the international climate was offering better chances for further progress in various fields of international cooperation, including the peaceful uses of outer space. Thirty-five years had passed since the establishment of COPUOS, the first permanent and broadly representative intergovernmental body in that field. The rapid development of technology and means of transport had made it possible to achieve impressive progress in space research and the development of applied components that had a direct impact on peoples' lives. Since space research required not only considerable knowledge but also significant financial resources, it was nearly impossible for any single State to explore outer space and, for that reason, international cooperation was a necessary condition for success in the peaceful uses of outer space.

23. Bulgaria supported limited enlargement of the membership of COPUOS on the basis of a consensus decision. The progress achieved by that Committee gave rise to expectations for further enhancing its activities in addressing outstanding issues. COPUOS should focus its attention on the use of space science and technology in monitoring and exploring the environment. Special attention should be given to the issue of protecting the space environment and to the problem of space debris.

24. The important role of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in promoting broader cooperation in space science and technology had been clearly demonstrated in practice. The Programme should continue to focus on long-term, task-oriented training in space technology and specific application areas. The holding of meetings, training courses, seminars and conferences in 1995 would enhance the more comprehensive application of space technologies in line with the needs of all countries and facilitate the access of developing countries to such technologies.

25. Bulgaria had become the eighteenth Member State to conduct space research activities, the sixth to participate in manned space-flight programmes and the third to produce space foods. The profound changes that had taken place in his country's political, economic and social life were also having an impact on science and applied research, forcing scientific research institutions to streamline their institutional basis and financing and management methods. It was quite obvious that during that period the establishment of national space agencies should be speeded up by using the experience of the leading space nations. Those agencies should promote cooperation both on a bilateral and a multilateral basis in order to integrate countries into international space organizations. The Bulgarian Aerospace Agency (BASA) had been set up at the end of 1993 and was currently in the process of establishing contacts with all national space agencies as well as the European Space Agency (ESA) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Cooperation agreements had been signed with the Russian Space Agency (RSA). BASA was also working with NASA on contracts in the manufacture of space equipment and in carrying out experiments.

26. Mr. KYRYCHENKO (Ukraine) said that the history of the past few decades demonstrated the close links between social and economic progress and the peaceful uses of the unique achievements of space science and technology. The demilitarization of space and the humanization of space activities were yielding considerable results, with a concomitant decrease in expenditure on the military programmes of the leading space nations and an increasing orientation of space activities towards the solution of the urgent problems facing humankind. A key role in that effort was played by COPUOS and Ukraine welcomed its strategy as set forth in the report on its thirty-seventh session.

27. Following the UNISPACE-82 recommendations on expanding cooperation and exchange of experience in the application of space technology and on space personnel training, two centres of science and technology had been opened in Ukraine, the International Centre for Science and Technology and the Faculty of Aerospace Technology at the Kiev Polytechnical Institute. In connection with the work conducted under the auspices of the Organization on the use of aerospace remote systems for the solution of urgent environmental problems, the rational use of natural resources, the forecasting of adverse natural phenomena and the prevention of disasters due to technology, Ukraine suggested that consideration should be given to the establishment of an international project for the study from outer space of the impact of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident on the environment.

28. As for the question of space applications for the prevention and early warning of natural disasters, the elimination of their consequences and the provision of emergency relief, the "Warning" project under way in Ukraine envisaged the creation of a satellite system for the monitoring of seismic activity and the forecasting of earthquakes. In addition, close attention was being given in Ukraine to space biology and space medicine, which could become the subject of bilateral or multilateral projects. Ukraine's scientific and technological potential and the level of its scientific and research infrastructure enabled it to work on a programme for the development of a new generation of shuttle-type vehicles for the delivery of payloads to outer space, which would require no space-vehicle launch site and could launch space vehicles from any point on the globe.

29. Mr. KOLATEK (Czech Republic) expressed his appreciation to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the level of its technical presentations. Those presentations were important in enhancing the scientific and technical character of the Subcommittee's work. He also thanked the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the meetings it had held in a number of countries and the various workshops, training courses and regional conferences it had organized. The coordination of work on space matters among the specialized agencies of the United Nations system was also highly satisfactory.

30. Although the Czech Republic had only a few small scientific satellites in orbit, it was interested in the protection of circumterrestrial space from space debris and in the maintenance of a reasonable level of safety for space operations. As for the proposal on the holding of a third UNISPACE conference, his delegation noted that many countries were interested in holding the

conference within the next few years. At the same time, he stressed the need for a substantive agenda which would deal with specific issues relating to the application of space science and technology. The Czech Republic would not support an agenda consisting of general topics since each application of space technology required a specific approach, and a general discussion at the conference might lead only to general conclusions.

31. Following the successful conclusion of its work on the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, two years earlier, the Legal Subcommittee had considered the possibility of an early review of those Principles. Since there was no immediate need for such a review, the Subcommittee should propose new items for its future agenda. Both Subcommittees should consider ways of enhancing the effectiveness of their work. His delegation therefore favoured dispensing with the general exchange of views in the Subcommittees. In addition, reviews of national activities would perhaps be better dealt with in the relevant documents or technical materials, rather than in formal statements delivered during the sessions. In conclusion, he supported the draft resolution prepared by the Austrian delegation in consultation with many other members of COPUOS.

32. Mr. Chong-Ha YOO (Republic of Korea) said that in 1994 his Government had been able to participate as an observer in the meetings of COPUOS and its two Subcommittees. That had given his delegation an opportunity to gain close first-hand knowledge of the Committee's work and to determine the areas which interested it most.

33. The Republic of Korea welcomed the agreement reached at the thirty-seventh session of COPUOS on the possibility of convening a third UNISPACE conference in the near future. Clearly, the objectives and other important details of that conference would need to be carefully worked out before a final decision was taken. His country also noted with satisfaction that in 1994 COPUOS had held extensive discussions on the issue of space debris and it believed that consideration of that issue by COPUOS would help the international community to devise the necessary strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space activities.

34. In September 1994, the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific had been held in Beijing. The Beijing Declaration adopted at the Conference would play an important role in the development of guidelines and strategies for the promotion of regional cooperation in space applications. In view of the transboundary nature of national and regional problems, regional cooperation and coordination in that area would clearly make the benefits of space technology more cost-effective and accessible for all countries. Another important milestone in the development of regional cooperation had been the establishment, on 25 October 1994, of the Asia Pacific Satellite Communication Council, which had been set up in Seoul as a non-governmental organization to promote regional exchanges and cooperation in the field of satellite communications and broadcasting. Immediately after its establishment, the Council, in close cooperation with the Republic of Korea, had hosted the Asia Pacific Workshop for Satellite Communications for Development.

35. Although the Republic of Korea was a late starter in space activities, it had continually expanded its space capabilities, developing a number of ambitious space development programmes. It had launched two scientific micro-satellites, KITSAT-1 and KITSAT-2, in 1992 and 1993 respectively. From 1990 to 1993 the Korea Aerospace Research Institute had successfully developed the first Korean sounding rocket, the KSR420S. There were plans to launch KOREASAT, a geostationary direct broadcasting and communication satellite, in 1995. Recognition of the need to develop indigenous space capability had led to the establishment of the Satellite Technology Research Centre, which had become the focal point of the country's space development and scientific research programmes. Lastly, he said that his Government looked forward to participating in the work of the Committee as a full member at the earliest feasible time.

36. Mr. RYDBERG (Sweden) said that, as fears over "Star Wars" projects in East and West had receded, more attention was being focused, in the field of space activities, on the twin concerns of non-proliferation and access to peaceful technology. It was widely recognized that knowledge gained from observations from space was crucial to the understanding of global environmental problems.

37. It was against that background that the contribution of the United Nations to international space cooperation should be assessed. In his report on international cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-cold-war era (A/48/221), the Secretary-General had pointed out the dual nature of much of space technology and discussed the challenges and advantages of converting military space technology to civilian use.

38. Another issue of considerable interest raised in the report was how the United Nations system itself should use space applications for the maintenance of international peace and security and for other purposes. As stated in the report, that would require support from Member States and other international organizations. In that connection, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was setting an excellent example in helping to broaden knowledge and access to space technology.

39. His delegation considered that the past year had been relatively satisfactory for the Committee. Three issues stood out: the initial work on space debris, the attempts to rationalize the work of the Legal Subcommittee, and the preparations for a third UNISPACE Conference. He also expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the agreement reached in the Committee on its enlargement. Sweden looked forward to the speedy appointment of eight new members of the Committee, which would allow four States from his region to be represented.

40. Cleaning up space debris was impracticable, from both the technical and the economic point of view. The problem should therefore be seen as a long-term one, particularly in the most heavily used lower and geostationary orbits. Very useful work had already been done at the latest session of COPUOS as a result of adding space debris to the agenda. Excellent technical presentations had been made, but they had also shown the need for a continued and intensified exchange of information and ideas. He hoped, however, that the preliminary stage of the

work would not take up too much time. Sweden supported the recommendation that the initial emphasis should be on developing a common understanding of the scientific and technical issues involved and an adequate definition of the problem. A useful first step would be to make an inventory of measures already undertaken to reduce the generation of additional debris.

41. His delegation had for several years stressed the need to rationalize the work of the Legal Subcommittee. It could not accept the idea that the meeting time allocated to any United Nations body should bear no relation to the time actually needed for the work in hand. Meetings should not be used for abstract discussions about the potential importance of the work of any given body. If new items were to be added to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, that should be done because of the requirements of international space law, not in order to fill the time allotted. At the present time there was reason to shorten substantially the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee. It was, however, entirely possible, that at a later stage, the Subcommittee would again face a heavy workload, for example, with the possible elaboration of legal norms on issues currently under consideration in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

42. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was currently focusing on a thorough analysis and definition of an agenda for a third UNISPACE conference. There were undoubtedly a number of issues which merited the attention of an international high-level forum such as a UNISPACE conference. Sweden had already highlighted a few such issues within COPUOS: space applications to promote sustainable development, particularly in the implementation of Agenda 21; space applications to prevent and mitigate natural disasters; the role of space applications in maintaining international peace and security, including the conversion of military space technology to civilian purposes; and the United Nations and space applications.

43. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan) said that, with a view to implementing its State policy on the exploration and use of outer space, in 1993 Kazakhstan had established a National Aerospace Agency and had developed and adopted a National Aerospace Programme. On 1 July 1994, during a joint Russian-Kazakh space flight, the second Kazakh cosmonaut, flight engineer Talgat Musabaev, carried out a number of technological experiments, including space biology experiments, remote sensing of the Earth, photography and videotaping of the territory of Kazakhstan and study of the Aral Sea region. The DIXON Scientific and Technical Centre for the Reception and Processing of Space Information, established in April 1994, had facilitated prompt access to space information, and the subsequent launching of its own spacecraft to study natural resources had made possible the centre's integration into the international global surveillance system. Kazakhstan was considering the possibility of participating in programmes carried out by the European Space Agency, and negotiations on its participation in the international programme INTERSAT/B were in the final stage. The first international aerospace exhibition, Aerospace-94, had recently been held in Alma Ata.

44. In July 1994, the Kazakh Parliament had ratified the Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on Basic Principles and

Conditions for the Use of the Baikonur Launch Site. With regard to the training of personnel to service that complex, Kazakhstan had a right to count on assistance from the international community. The problem of ensuring that outer space remained peaceful should be solved not only through the mechanism of disarmament but also by COPUOS, since its work most fully reflected the role of the United Nations in priority questions of the peaceful use of outer space. The Government of Kazakhstan intended to participate actively as a full member in the activities of COPUOS and make its contribution to mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries in the interests and for the benefit of world scientific and technical progress. The successful work of COPUOS in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space depended in large part on how effective it was in uniting international efforts.

45. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that the end of the cold war and the new spirit of partnership between former adversaries afforded unprecedented opportunities to combine the material and intellectual potential of individual countries for the peaceful use of outer space. COPUOS could achieve better results by concentrating its efforts on priority issues, systematizing its items and harmonizing a mechanism for their consideration, and coordinating its activities more closely with the Conference on Disarmament. In that regard, the Chairman of COPUOS should hold working consultations with the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament and together they should draw up an agenda. The adoption of hasty and poorly drafted decisions should be avoided in favour of a considered, balanced approach. It was still too early to hold a review of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. His delegation supported a more detailed and technical study of that question, especially in the light of the increasing pollution of outer space.

46. With regard to international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space, he noted that joint experiments in space were becoming a regular activity and were involving a growing number of countries. The construction of an international space station with the participation of almost 20 States on different continents was not far off. The United Nations should continue to act as the coordinator and "ideologue" of international space cooperation. There should be constructive dialogue in the Legal Subcommittee on the legal aspects of creating a mechanism for such cooperation. At the current stage, his delegation merely hoped that due consideration would be given to the legal, technical and economic guidelines for new principles for cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space. His delegation supported the aspirations of South Africa, Kazakhstan, Cuba and other States to become members of COPUOS. The decision on their admission could be adopted at the current session on the basis of consensus. While constructive consideration of the organizational and other aspects of preparations for the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be continued, there was no need to make undue haste to hold the Conference. Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United Nations in the field of outer space would continue to be a priority of Russian foreign policy.

47. Mr. SANTA PUTRA (Thailand) said that, after the end of the cold war, there had been a significant increase in the activities of COPUOS. At the current stage of international cooperation, COPUOS had a crucial role to play in enhancing international understanding of the potential uses of outer space for science and technology, communications, meteorology and environmental monitoring. In order to help less developed countries benefit from the use and development of space technology, transfers of technologies should be intensified. COPUOS was, to a certain extent, the only multilateral forum where developing countries could air their views and express their needs and requests regarding the use of outer space on an equal footing with developed countries.

48. Thailand had benefited considerably from space-related technologies, especially in the fields of remote sensing, telecommunications and meteorology. In October 1994, Thailand had launched its second telecommunications satellite, THAICOM II, which would help expand the capacity of satellite communication for Thailand and its neighbouring countries. His delegation supported regional efforts to cooperate in the peaceful use of outer space and welcomed the Beijing Declaration, which had been adopted in September 1994. He hoped that, in the near future, regional centres for space science and technology education would be established under United Nations auspices. His delegation reiterated Thailand's full support for that programme and its readiness to act as host for a regional centre in the Asia-Pacific region. His delegation was in favour of the appropriate expansion of membership in COPUOS on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and emphasized its interest in becoming a member of COPUOS. Only collective reason could ensure the appropriate uses of outer space.

49. Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay) said that, since its establishment in 1959, COPUOS had achieved considerable success. The results of research and the application of space technology were becoming more and more accessible to members of the international community, which used them in the interest of social and economic development. Nevertheless, in spite of such efforts, not all countries had been able to benefit fully from space activities. It was necessary to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technological information, strengthen international cooperation programmes and broaden technical assistance to developing countries.

50. In order to ensure the continued peaceful use of outer space, COPUOS should develop norms of international space law that would regulate the practical application of the achievements of space science and technology. Her delegation shared the concern expressed by the Working Group of the Whole that many recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not been fully implemented. The question of remote sensing of the Earth by satellites should also be mentioned. In that area, considerable efforts had been made to ensure the compatibility and complementarity of remote-sensing systems and promote cooperation between the parties operating the satellites and ground stations, and their users.

51. The practice used in disseminating meteorological information was a striking example of international cooperation, which should be extended to other space-observation data. Space observation was becoming increasingly important

for pinpointing real threats to the environment. The depletion of the ozone layer, climate change, global warming, the loss of natural resources and many other phenomena demonstrated that the environment was a single and indivisible whole that was not limited to the components of the Earth's system. In 1991, her delegation had said that environmental protection issues, in particular, issues that could influence the Earth's environment, should be given particular attention. In that regard, her delegation proposed that a separate item on that issue should be included in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that consideration should be given to the possibility of drafting a convention that would give a prominent place to provisions on the prevention of the pollution of outer space, the establishment of environmental standards and so on.

52. The Legal Subcommittee was considering a number of questions on which it would be advisable to reach agreement. One of those questions dealt with the definition and delimitation of outer space. It was essential to develop a concrete legal regime to regulate the use of the geostationary orbit. The consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, with particular emphasis on the needs of the developing countries, was in turn related to the question of cooperation, which should yield concrete results. The Preparatory Committee for the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should step up its work. In that regard, the documents submitted by Pakistan, India, the Group of 77 and the Secretariat were very useful.

53. Mrs. HASAN (Pakistan) said that her delegation fully subscribed to the view that outer space was the common heritage of all mankind. Her delegation firmly believed that all States should benefit from the peaceful applications of space technology through effective international cooperation. It had been Pakistan's consistent position that outer space should be used solely for peaceful purposes. Moreover, equitable benefits should be ensured for all States. Pakistan's space programme was directed towards the achievement of those objectives. Pakistan had also served as host for several seminars and short courses.

54. COPUOS could play a vital role in further strengthening international cooperation in outer space activities. It could also support efforts to prevent the militarization of outer space. Her delegation was in favour of a comprehensive convention to prevent an arms race in outer space. The work of COPUOS could provide a useful input to the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament, which should strengthen and amplify the existing legal regime on the peaceful use of outer space. Particular attention should be given to banning anti-satellite weapons as well as ballistic-missile defence systems. Her delegation called for strict adherence to existing multilateral and bilateral legal instruments relating to outer space.

55. Her delegation welcomed the agreement reached on Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. However, in the light of recent technological developments, the remaining work on the elaboration of those

principles should be completed as soon as possible. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should continue to examine the question of the geostationary orbit with a view to proposing an equitable and just solution. The solution must guarantee the availability of that important resource to all countries, especially the developing countries.

56. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the deliberations on the important subject of space debris, which had recently been included in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Her delegation supported the Committee's view that the Subcommittee should continue to develop, on a priority basis, a scientific and technical basis to minimize the risks of collision of space objects with debris.

57. Considerable work remained to be done with regard to other items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, in particular the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. Some proposals on the geostationary orbit could provide a useful basis for further discussion. Another important issue was the conclusion of an early agreement on the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States. That agreement should take account of the particular needs of the developing countries.

58. In accordance with the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the development of indigenous capabilities in developing countries, Pakistan had offered to host a regional centre for space science and technology. Her delegation had also submitted a working paper on the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and earnestly hoped that the Committee would promptly recommend that the General Assembly should decide to convene the Conference.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.